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[OC] War Crimes.

OC

"Sir, are you sure you want to go through with the hearing?" asked my assistant.

"Yes my boy, I am very sure of it" I replied while reviewing my notes "and that's the tenth time you've asked in the last hour"

"Ninth, and I am sorry sir" he began "Its just that...." He began to trail off

"Just what boy? I have told you a thousand times, I take offense only at poorly thought out statements or questions and you're not the type to open your mouth without thinking." I said, sharper than I meant to.

"Nine hundred forty two times sir" he said quickly. 'Damned Versoths and taking all numbers literally, ah well, my own people were thought to not have a sense of humor' I thought to myself.

"Its just that, well, your predecessors didn't exactly leave it with a credible position" He blurts snapping me out of my thoughts.

"Ah" I say simply.

"For example the first high observer theorized that the human race saw artificial differences based on slight, almost nonexistent genetic differences " He says not hearing my response.

"I am well aware.." I begin

"And the second tried to destroy the Humans believing them to be a greater threat than even the Magodorans" He continues ignoring me.

"Yes I know but..." I attempt to speak again

"And I just think that..."

"**I KNOW!!!!**" I finally yell getting the attention of those around us.

"I am well aware of the stigma attached to my position, just as I am aware of the controversy of the humans" I say sternly. "I do not need you, of all people, to remind me of that"

"I am sorry sir" My assistant says.

"Its quite all right" I say attempting to cut him off

"But what worries me the most sir, is *you* argued the most for their first classification." He says before I can continue.

"Ah" I say, "Yes that's quite true I did" I say not betraying my own unease.

"Attention, the Human reclassification hearing will begin shortly, please enter the courtroom."

"Well now it appears we have somewhere to be." I say with a note of finality.

"Err yes it does sir" My assistant replied.

As we made our way into the massive courtroom I began to explain what was going to happen to my assistant.

"We are going to go in there, the judges are all going to stroke their own egos listing out all their titles. After this they are going to ask for a brief summary of the history of the human observation post since we discovered them because they haven't read the written summary they received when I made my request. After that they are to ask the reasons for the humans' current classification. I think I will leave all that to you."

"To me sir? But why?" he asked rather nervously.

"Yes, I am leaving it to you, as to the why, its simple, that is going to take a lot of talking and I don't feel like talking that much." I say

"After the reasoning they will ask what classification they should receive and why it should be changed, I will handle that" I continue on.

"Sir, if you don't mind me asking, what **is** your argument" My assistant ask nervously.

"Oh nothing you need to concern yourself with" I say airily. "you'll hear the same time as the judges."

"But sir, if I don't know what your argument is how can I help it with my statements?" he asks in confusion as we take our seats.

"Why do you need to know my arguments to make your statement?" I ask already knowing what his answer will be.

"Well sir, its just that the history of the humans doesn't exactly inspire a feeling of lowering their classification." He states clearly not understanding my point.

"Well you may have a point there" I concede, "but nonetheless just give them the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" I say quoting a human entertainment program we had watched in the past.

"All rise for the honorable and wise judges of species character" comes booming out of the speakers around us.

As I stood the three judges walked in, there was a Versoth, a Tornuck, and a Maestro, three of the five species on the council.

As I predicted the hearing started off with a load of ego stroking naming all the accomplishments of the three judges, I only half listened and began to formulate my argument.

"Sir, are you sure there isn't *anything* you want me to leave out?" my assistant asks as the ego stoking winds down.

"Yes I am sure, tell them everything." I snap, "Now is not the time for doubts."

"This hearing will now commence." Comes the high pitched voice of the Maestro "The purpose of this hearing is the species known as "Humanity", currently classified as a Class III violent species, formerly a Class V, representing the Human observation outpost is the High Observer and his assistant. Please stand"

As my assistant and I stand the eyes of the judges finally come upon us.

"You are here to reclassify humanity, correct?" ask the Maestro

"That is correct, your wisdom." I reply evenly

"Very well please summarize the history of the human race since their discovery." He demands

"With all due respect your wisdom, my assistant will be the one to give the history of the species in question" I state giving myself a small bit of control.

"Very well" Says the judge clearly bored with the proceedings.

"Ah, yes, humanity" My assistant starts off nervously. He clears his throat.

"Humanity was first discovered 26 cycles ago, the scout team gathered all available information at the time and returned to council space. When the council formed the first human observation force approximately a cycle later we returned and saw the most advanced factions in humanity locked in a brutal war. They used terrible weapons and technology, in the half cycle that followed, we began to study them in earnest, millions died as a direct result of this war. We were rightly horrified however as a full cycle had not yet past we could not classify them."

"After this brutal war however we saw a seed of hope, they formed a union of several factions whose goal was to create lasting peace, as a result of this the first rating for the human race was Class II, violent but showing promise. The most pessimistic amongst the team claimed this was naive, he cited the lack of a strong faction in the union, as well as an impending economic crash the computer saw coming as reasons the humans would not become peaceful."

"I am saddened to tell you it was far, far worse than that, approximately six cycles after we first began to study them, and just under five cycles after giving them that classification, they began another, even more brutal war."

"Some of the actions committed in this war horrified us to the core, but the worst action of all was the use of two atomic weapons, **before** the use of atomic fission as an energy source"

The gasp of horror from every mature being, echoed in the courtroom, all other species had discovered nuclear fission as a source of energy first and a weapon second, to do the opposite would be seen as almost a crime against nature.

"When this happened an emergency reclassification was called and in it, at the fervent argument of the current high observer, humans were reclassified as a Class V violent species, violent, unreasonable, and almost animals."

"Their behavior after this brutal war appeared to confirm our suspicions, they were broadly divided up into two separate groups each with their own ideology, with enough fission and fusion weapons to destroy their planet many times over, after 4 and ¼ cycles they appeared to be on the brink of nuclear annihilation. By a miraculous series of diplomacy they managed to avoid it."

"Approximately five cycles later, the second High Observer began to believe humanity was the single most dangerous species to the galaxy and inputted a bug into the satellites of one of the major factions and caused them to believe that a nuclear attack from their rivals was imminent. While the second High Observer was clearly insane his action nonetheless would have had severe consequences on the human race except that they did not retaliate, we have since determined that they believed it to be a false alarm"

"Two cycles after this one of the two major faction of the human planet collapsed and after a cycle the species was reclassified once more this time to a Class III, violent but intelligent. It has been six and ¼ cycle since they were last reclassified" My assistant finished without a very strong conclusion, those were always his weakness.

The judges were clearly perturbed by the summary, truth be told all other lifeforms that had ever been classified as a Class V had later destroy themselves, and none had ever shifted their classification around quite as much as the humans had.

"I see" says the Maestro, "so you wish to classify humanity as a Class IV dangerous species then High Observer?"

"No your wisdom." I said simply "I wish to classify them as a Class I dangerous species, violent but subdued"

The shocked look on the faces of the three judges made the entire hearing worth it in my opinion, even if it didn't go as planned.

"A Class I? If we do that then we will be forced to lift the FTL barriers we have placed around them!" exclaims the Tornuck.

"That is correct your wisdom" I calmly state

"Was it not *you* who argued most strongly for Class V seventeen and a half cycles ago?" asked the Versoth.

"Yes your wisdom I did" I answer just as calm as I was.

"What in all that is known caused you change that view so radically?" inquired the Maestro

"Two things your wisdom, one practical, one..... philosophical" I began hesitantly.

"For the practical one, the human race is advancing at a rate approximately triple our own, at this rate they will have the technology to move at FTL speeds with five cycles, In addition they have made computers that are almost on par with our own and their medical technology is highly advanced for a species so young on a planet so harsh. I have no doubt that one day they will find a way past our barriers and what can we do then? For at that time they will be our technological superiors." I explain.

"But far more interesting, and in my own opinion vastly more important is a concept they have. In order to truly understand it you understand how utterly foreign it is to us. Your wisdoms I ask, when your people are at war, when they capture combatants, what do they do to them?" I ask

The Versoth answers first saying "The are captured of course, interrogated, through force if necessary, and used as labor afterwards just like every species in the galaxy"

"I see your wisdom, tell me what condition are these prisoners kept in? That is to say, how well fed are they? Do they receive medical attention?" I fire off a line of questions

"They are given whatever scraps are left over after our own soldiers are finished and of course not, why would we waste the medicine on enemies?" answers the Maestro "What is the point of these questions?" he asks angered.

"The point is simple your wisdom, we, and all other known species in the galaxy, will engage In war, but never limit ourselves while doing it, we will use whatever weapons are available, we will do what will bring about victory the easiest, to do anything else is considered foolish. In this area the humans are our clear superiors, they have a concept that takes at least a full cycle to understand, they will limit the way they wage war as to cause the least amount of damage to noncombatants, they will treat prisoners of war with respect and feed them adequately while also ensuring they are given medical attention. They often refuse to use torture to gather information. They frown upon the use of chemical and biological weapons and have formed many

agreements to limit their use. They may not always follow these limits but their mere existence is proof that humans are, in some ways, the most peace hungry species in the galaxy, they call the way we treat our own enemies a simple title that does not exist in any other language.”

“They call them War Crimes.”